



CHILD WELFARE SUPPORT PROGRAM

LOVE THE CITY



FOR THE
CITY

OVERVIEW

The Child Welfare Support Program exists to cast vision, celebrate, and create awareness surrounding foster care and adoption. As a church that actively works to respond to God's heart for vulnerable children, this program helps to equip and sustain current foster and adoptive families in their calling as well as empower more people in the church to enter into this space.

VISION

We believe that everyone has a role to play in the child-welfare crisis because we know God's heart for vulnerable children. James 1:27 states that, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." With the reality that 60% of foster families quit during the first year, we're working to prioritize caring for these families in their calling. The Child Welfare Support Program is two-fold—it provides opportunities for foster families and opportunities for those interested in serving foster families and foster children. Volunteer opportunities include Parent's Night Out, certified babysitter training, CASA information sessions, and foster family gatherings.

GET INVOLVED

Parent's Night Out is a volunteer ministry that exists to support foster parents and invest in the lives of children in their care. Twice a month, the St. John, Downtown, and North Campuses of The Austin Stone host childcare so foster parents can take a night to themselves! Dinner and activities are provided for children and volunteers all while children are cared for in a fun, safe environment.

Fostering Hope provides a variety of trainings with the hope of raising up new volunteers and sustaining current foster families and volunteers. These trainings include introductions to foster care, trauma-informed compassion building for those interacting with children from hard places,

and role discerning within child welfare. One of the largest trainings is the Foster-Care Certified Babysitter certification course. Offered three to four times a year, this training helps equip volunteers to serve foster families.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are court-appointed, trained, and committed adults who ensure that each foster child's individual needs remain a priority in an overburdened child welfare system. Currently, in Travis County, 775 children need a CASA.

ABBA is an Austin Stone fund available for partners pursuing adoption that they can apply for and receive resources towards adoption expenses. Just as our Heavenly Father, our Abba, has cared for us, we want to pour out love for others.

Foster/Adoption Family Gatherings provide church-wide gatherings for families to connect and be encouraged in their calling in child welfare.

Email alison.brooks@austinstone.org for ways to get involved or to support programs like these.

